

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 /096 W
-----129226 021153Z /47

O 021115Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8239
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5497

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, IS, LE, NI
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: NIGERIAN CONTINGENT FOR UNIFIL

REF: (A) LAGOS 5430, (B) STATE 110406

1. I INFORMED AMBASSADOR SANU, DIRECTOR OF MEA'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT, MORNING OF MAY 2 THAT I UNDERSTOOD SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM PLANNED TO CALL COMMISSIONER GARBA TO FIND OUT THE STATUS OF THE NIGERIAN AIRLIFT OPERATION AND TO URGE THAT THE NIGERIAN MILITARY ATTACHE COME TO NEW YORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS EQUIPMENT NEEDS. SANU EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE INFORMATION.

2. WHEN I SOUGHT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM SANU REGARDING
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PLANS FOR AN AIRLIFT OF THE REMAINDER THE NIGERIAN CONTINGENT AND ITS EQUIPMENT, HE SAID THAT HE HAD SENT A CABLE TO THE NIGERIAN MISSION IN NEW YORK AFTERNOON OF MAY 1 WITH INFORMATION ON THE DEPARTURE OF THE FIRST GROUP. SANU THEN WENT ON TO STATE POLITELY BUT FIRMLY WHAT HAS BEEN IMPLICIT IN HIS ATTITUDE DURING MY RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM ON THIS SUBJECT. HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WISHED

TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE UN REGARDING THE AIRLIFT AND FOUND IT "VERY EMBARRASSING" TO DEAL WITH THE USG AS AN INTERMEDIARY. WHEN I POINTED OUT THAT THE UN WAS ANXIOUS TO GET INFORMATION REGARDING THE AIRLIFT AND THE EQUIPMENT OF THE NIGERIAN CONTINGENT WHICH IT HAD THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN, HE SAID THAT THE UN SHOULD OFFICIALLY INFORM THE FMG IF IT WISHED THE USG TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY.

3. IN VIEW OF SANU'S STATEMENTS WE WILL NOT GO AHEAD WITH EFFORTS WE HAD BEEN PLANNING TO SEEK INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM MILITARY SOURCES. IF THE NIGERIAN DEFENSE ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON CALLS ON OUR DEFENSE ATTACHE (PARA 3 OF REFTEL A) WE WILL OF COURSE OBTAIN SUCH INFORMATION AS WE CAN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAS BEEN ON A VISIT TO IFE, HIS HOME TOWN, FOR SEVERAL DAYS, SO HE MAY IN ANY EVENT NOT YET BE WELL INFORMED REGARDING FMG PLANNING FOR THE AIRLIFT.
WYMAN

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